

I am writing to you to please pass proposed H.B.6200 (which supersedes the original bill, H.B. 5625) - An Act Concerning the Long-term use of Antibiotic Treatment of Lyme Disease.  
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/TOB/H/2009HB-06200-R00-HB.htm>

I am a 45 year old wife and mother living in Madison. My husband owns a medical education business [www.sciencevisionmd.com](http://www.sciencevisionmd.com) and I run a fine art gallery [www.ruggierogallery.com](http://www.ruggierogallery.com). I also help people find a proper diagnosis and treatment for Lyme disease in a state where politics and ignorance have left too many devastated by this illness.

In 2001 a "spider bite" set off an illness that would eventually disable me. My symptoms included:

- Flu like symptoms
- Severe headache
- Neck pain
- Nausea/ GI pain
- Numb hands and feet
- Chest pain
- Slurring words
- Shooting pain
- Breathing difficulties
- Confusion
- Disabling fatigue
- Bladder disorder

Over the course of four years, extensive medical workups and seven specialists diagnosed nothing (including three negative Lyme tests from Quest)—like the other illnesses including HIV, tuberculosis, diabetes, and syphilis, Lyme disease was dismissed and I went untreated as the infection spread. My doctor was terrified to treat me for Lyme saying "I don't want to go down the Lyme road".

If my doctor had understood the symptoms of the disease and didn't fear losing her medical license, she could have made a clinical diagnosis and begun treatment. Indeed, on the negative Lyme disease test from Quest it say that a negative test should not be used to rule out the disease.

Eventually, my blood was sent to Stony Brook Lab and came back CDC positive for an active infection---four years after the mysterious bite.

Now, three years into treatment, my symptoms are under control—and although I am not cured, I can function again. The delay in treatment has left me with a chronic disease.

Please let me know if you would like more information.

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